

Shelton State Cou-

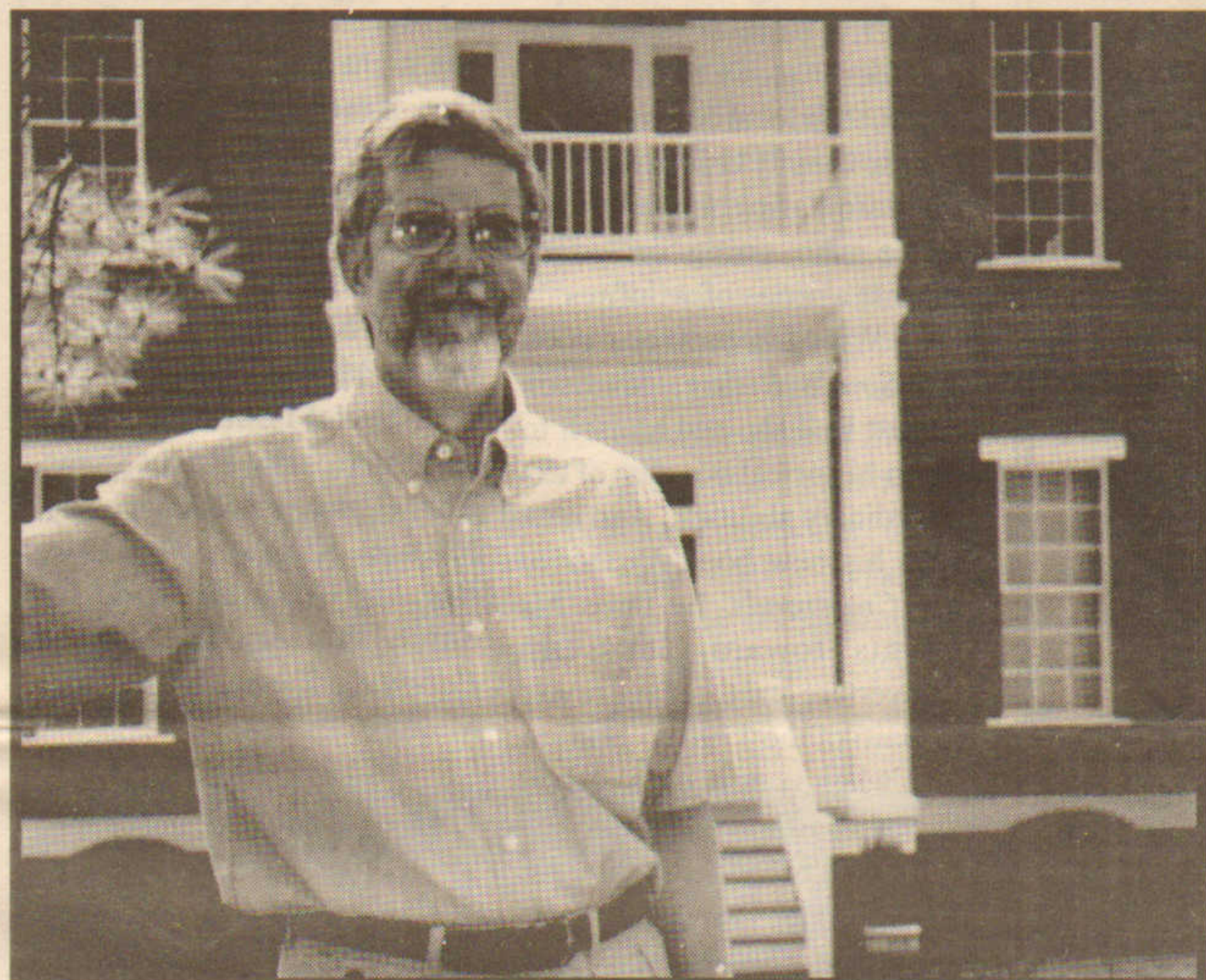
—Campus Newspaper—

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Shelton State Community College

April 18, 2001 - April 25, 2001

Gift for Shelton



Author Ben Erickson stands near the antebellum house he renovated board by board. Erickson will discuss how he captured lightening in a bottle with his novel *A Parting Gift*.

Ben Erickson, author of *A Parting Gift* and an award-winning furniture maker, will be the keynote speaker at the college's annual Alumni Association meeting on April 23

By Shirley Friday

Writing a novel, which brought Ben Erickson, of Eutaw, national fame and fortune, was not the first of his major accomplishments. On April 23, at Shelton State, Erickson, with a little encouragement, will talk about many of his fascinating endeavors as well as his book, *A Parting Gift*.

And what will the audience learn?

Most people would say success

came to Erickson because he is a "can do" kind of guy. Self-taught in most of his projects, he is much like the character Mr. Davis from his novel. Erickson has "... a tenacious desire to absorb everything around him."

One of Ericson's earliest desires was to build a house for him and his wife, DeLancey, to live in. He accomplished this at age 23, shortly after graduating from college.

During a recent conversation at his stately home, Erickson shared pictures of the log cabin the couple built from scratch, hand-cutting and fitting the trees themselves. Building the cabin was like putting a puzzle together, he said.

But that would not be the most

difficult house he would put together. A few years later, when the abandoned 1850's house he now lives in came up for sale, he bought it for \$500. He then took it apart, board by board, and resurrected it on the lot where it stands, near downtown Eutaw.

The antebellum house, painted soft green with red shutters, is composed of two stories. Most of the top floor houses his woodworking shop, where in the past, Ericson crafted his furniture. Now the shop is idle.

Tools line the walls in impeccable order, table saws and drills sitting unused. "About the time I started writing the book, my focus changed,"

Gift cont'd pg.3

National parks offer adventurous summer jobs

By Jason E. Herron

With the spring semester coming quickly to a close, many students are planning for the summer. Most will find full-time jobs at home, but some are searching for a more adventurous way to waste away the few summer months. Out of these few, most will find a life changing experience if they look in the right places.

Summer is about more than just being out of school; it is also the time for big tourism. With thousands of families setting out on road trips, the national parks will be



Jason Herron takes a stroll with Elena Voronova during their summer working together at Grand Teton National Park. Herron discovered there can be many wonderful benefits to a summer job away from home

flooded. This creates an enormous demand for employees, and an excellent opportunity for you, the adventure seeker. I spent last summer at Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, and it has affected my life more than I ever dreamed it would.

The resort was, in a sense, its own small city, with more than 500 employees. This provided a lot of opportunities to make new friends, many of which I still maintain contact with. I have been practically all over

the world because of the relationships I

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Sheltoniana Which Can Be Found Nowhere Else

Inside

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Look for the sales, discount coupons, and special notices in the *Courier's* ads

These companies are our special friends. Let's support them!

For advertising information call the publisher at 391-2278

Dear Courier,

With regard to the education funding crisis, there seems to be a couple of misconceptions in the public and the Courier Student poll with regard to funding sources.

In several media outlets, there have been calls for constitutional reform because "education is funded by sales tax." In your student poll, the Courier reports that 50% of students thought education was funded by sales tax and another 40% thought funding was from income tax. The fact is, education funding in Alabama is derived from both sales and income tax.

Of the \$4 billion Education Trust Fund, income tax actually represent the largest share (54%) of funding. State sales taxes generate approximately 38% of education funds. These sources have represented the "growth tax" portion of our state budgets and are ear-marked exclusively for education. Due to this funding strategy, education receives about 80% of all state tax revenue.

With regard to the portion crisis, higher education and K-12 should allocate cuts proportionately in the same manner that increases have been granted in the past. In this manner, cuts would be fair and would be more easily restored when the economy picks up steam again.

Every 8-10 years, it seems we have to deal with a year or two of proration. Our lawmakers would probably be wise to heed the advice of "Joseph" by passing the "rainy day legislation" so that a modest amount of reserves can be laid up during years of plenty to guard against proration in the future. In the meantime, we can only hope that there is not a coming recession that adversely impacts income tax revenue.

Don Wallace, Northport

Future Issues

This is the sixth *Courier* of the year. We will publish once more this term. Two issues are scheduled for September, October and November. One per month is set for May, June, July, August, December and January, 2002. Let us know what you would like to know about Shelton by calling the publisher at 391-2278 or the *Courier* editorial office at 391-2406.

"Keep Looking Up!"

By Dr. Lee Albritton



Leo—the Mighty Lion

Early spring is an excellent time to find and enjoy our very own lion in the nighttime sky—Leo! The constellation is made of very bright stars and is almost directly over head, both of which make Leo very easy to locate!

To find Leo simply locate the most familiar constellation in the night time sky—the Big Dipper—by looking northeast. The Big Dipper is in an upside down position, and if water were in it, the water would pour down on your head. The two end stars of the Big Dipper's bowl are referred to as the "pointer stars." If one draws an imaginary line through them toward the horizon, it will come to the North Star or officially called Polaris.

I'll bet that you may have learned this skill in girl or boy scouts growing up.

To find Leo the lion, simply draw a line through the "pointer stars" and go in the opposite direction toward the top of the sky. In an almost overhead direction, this line will run into the back of the lion. Now face south and look back up at Leo, and he will be sitting rightside up.

Leo's head, mane, and the front paws take the shape of a large, backwards question mark with his head and mane being the curved part of the question mark. The bottom star of the question mark Regulus is the brightest star in the constellation and represents the front paws

of Leo. Move in an easterly direction from the question mark and locate a triangle of stars that represent his rear end and back paws. Leo is sitting on his paws with his head up which is similar to the lion statues that are found in front of libraries or government buildings.

Why are most people already some what familiar with Leo? Because he is one of the twelve constellations that the ecliptic runs through. As a matter of fact, the ecliptic runs almost through Regulus Leo's brightest star.

Keep looking up on our beautiful spring nights and have fun finding Leo the mighty lion! Catch the moon as it moves along the ecliptic and watch it pass through Leo.

Off the Shelf...

New works available in the Brooks-Cork Library

By Glen Johnson

On the Best-Seller Shelf...

She's baaack. In her latest *The Cat Who Smelled a Rat*, Lillian Jackson Braun launches Koko, her feline detective, and Koko's pet human, journalist James Qwilleran, into a new case centering on an antique pitcher, a batik of robins, and an elderly glove box. Meanwhile, their local community of Moose County braces itself for the season's first big snowstorm while also going on guard against a series of wildfires.

With his previous book *All Soul's Rising*, Madison Smartt Bell showed himself to be an historical novelist of extraordinary abilities. And now with his new book *Master of the Crossroads*, he turns his talents toward Toussaint Louverture and the slave revolt in Haiti of the 1790's. Hard to lose when your book's central character is Louverture.

And if you're looking for something to keep you awake at night, you may want to try Michael Connelly's *A Darkness More Than Night*. LAPD

detective Harry Bosch is handling the usual run-of-the-mill Hollywood murder: director kills starlet while on casting couch. At the same time, Terry McCaleb (whom you may recall from *Blood Work*) is called back from retirement to solve a murder of the particularly unpleasant type (the kind whose solution built his reputation). It's inevitable that Bosch and McCaleb should join forces to solve each other's cases. Great late night reading.

American Literature: *Black Notice*, by Patricia Cornwell; *The Lion's Game*, by Nelson DeMille; *On the Bus with Rosa Parks*, by Rita Dove; *The Horse you Came in On*, by Martha Grimes.

Social Issues: *Reclaiming America*, by Randy Shaw; *The Gendered Society*, by Michael Kimmel; *The Most Beautiful Girl in the World*, by Sarah Weiser; *The Art of Parenting Twins*, by Patricia Malmstrom.

Music: *Nat King Cole*, by Daniel Epstein; *Singing and the Actor*, by Gillyanne Kayes; *Aaron Copland*, by Howard Pollack; *The Mourning of John Lennon*, by Anthony Elliott.

Shelton State Courier

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The *Shelton State Courier* is a "campus newspaper" written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression and all students are

urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper:

"The college seeks to provide an atmosphere conducive to open and honest intellectual inquiry in any college forum which is appropriate for dialogue and student participation. The students should feel free to exercise the right to dissent within limits of decorum and good taste."

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

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Gift cont'd from pg. 1

Erickson said. "Actually I haven't worked up here in over three years."

But it was Erickson's woodworking expertise that led him to his first writing successes: articles for books and magazines specializing in carpentry. "My first submissions were to magazines written by carpenters for carpenters," Erickson said. And though he had never taken a writing course, Erickson said, "The process was fairly simple. I wrote an article on louvered shutters and drew a picture of my plan." The magazine *Fine Woodworking* accepted the article and sent him a check. "I was hooked," Erickson said.

Because of his magazine writing experience, he was contacted by Rodale Press, a major "How To" book publisher. Rodale needed submissions for a book they were putting together. Three of his ideas made the cut, and later more requests for other books followed.

It was not until 1996, when Erickson began contemplating a college graduation gift for his son, Bill,

that he attempted fiction writing. He had read a book of practical advice, *Life's Little Instruction Book* written by H. Jackson for his own graduating son. And that gave Erickson the idea for *A Parting Gift*.

Erickson started writing without any idea of plot. "Mainly it was going to be a book of parables," Erickson said. Then as he began writing *A Parting Gift*, the relationship between his main characters developed. Eighty-four-year-old Mr. Davis befriends Josh, his 17 year-old meals-on-wheels delivery boy, and hires the boy to transcribe his memoirs. The friendship gives Mr. Davis a chance to pass down wisdom through his stories and open up a whole new world for Josh.

Erickson used self-teaching techniques on his novel. "When I first started writing, I wasn't sure about techniques, such as, dialogue. But if I needed to know how something worked I would take a novel off the shelf and go from there."

When he finally finished the book, he gave a copy to his son, who

was grateful. But, Erickson said, "My wife is the one who went nuts over the book. She was the one who pushed me to have it published." Erickson went on to say, "It has been a roller coaster ride ever since."

During the past year, Erickson's *A Parting Gift* was selected as a Book sense 76 favorite, an honor given by independent booksellers nationwide. He has also held numerous book signing and attended many speaking engagements. He will be signing books at the upcoming Annual Shelton State Alumni Association Meeting and will be answering questions for the audience.

The meeting will be held in the dining area of Shelton State's Martin Campus at 6:30 p.m., April 23. Tickets may be purchased by the public. The cost of the evening includes dinner for \$10, and reservations may be made by sending a check to The Shelton State Alumni Association, 9500 Old Greensboro Road, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405 by April 18. For additional information, call 205-391-2252 or 391-2221.

Summer Jobs cont'd from pg. 1

made last summer. Almost all national park resorts have some type of employee housing, ranging from college style dorms to individual cabins. Employment also includes free or discounted meals.

My typical day started with a short walk to work, during which I often passed within yards of a 7-foot moose famous for grazing in the employee village. After working on the beaches of the Snake River, I would go home for a nap to get rested for the night.

This is when the dorms come alive, and for the first month I met someone new almost every night. Off time can be spent hiking or enjoying some of the resort activities, such as whitewater rafting, for free. Here is an insider's tip: make friends with workers in the activities. They can seriously hook you up even if it is after hours.

These jobs are not hard to get either. Yellowstone, alone, employs 3,000 each summer. The resorts will

Summer job cont'd on pg. 5



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Sports

—The Buccaneers are Here to Play—



Baseball looking out for number 1 Lady Buc softball improving

By Tom Canterbury

On Tuesday, April 17, the Shelton State baseball team tightened their grip on first place in their conference by sweeping Beville-Suminton 12-0 and 10-0. Those wins improved the Bucs' record to 28-9 overall and 19-2 in conference, good for first place.

"We're playing pretty good right now," head coach Bobby Sprowl said. "We're in a slump hitting right now, but our pitching has been good and has kept us in ball games all year. I think we might be breaking out of that

slump with our performance today."

The team has now qualified for the state tournament and with eight games to go they have a seemingly comfortable three-game lead in the conference.

"We break the season down into three seasons," Sprowl said. "Pre-conference is one, then the conference season trying to qualify is two, and then the tournament itself is a whole new season. By that third season you have to be ready to go out and compete and that's what we're doing."

The Bucs have had to over-

come many injuries during the course of this year. Possibly the biggest of the year happened this past week when the state's best hitter, Griff Israel, went down for the year with a shoulder injury.

"That's the nature of baseball; the game goes on," said Sprowl. "You hate it for the individual, but the game goes on and the team does too."

With the state tournament fast approaching, the team is getting geared up to show what they can do.

"We have to step up and do it and I know they can," Sprowl said.

By Tom Canterbury

The Shelton State Lady Bucs fast-pitch softball team may have a sub .500 record, at 15-17, but head coach Dixie Terry sees the light at the end of the tunnel that has been this season.

"We lost two games at Jeff State on April 12, but we lost one of the games in 9 innings by a score of 5-4," Terry said. "They are the number five team in the nation, so for us just to be staying with them was an accomplishment. Even though we lost, it was the best game we have played all year."

Terry points to inconsistent hitting as the main factor to the team's performance this year.

"If we could ever hit from the beginning of the game, we'd be OK," she said.

The team is looking forward to a four-game home

stand which begins on Thursday, April 19 against Gadsden State and culminates on Thursday, April 26, with the final home game of the year against Northwest Shoals.

"It is very important for us to play well for those four games," Terry said. "The last two games against Jeff State on Tuesday, April 24, and Northwest Shoals will determine where we stand going into the state tournament."

The Lady Bucs plan to use the deep dimensions of their home field to their advantage to neutralize some of the power of the opposition.

"Last time, two Jeff State players hit it out. With our deep fences, they won't do that here," Terry said. "At home, where we can play defense with our deep fences, we can play with anyone."

Upcoming Buccaneer Baseball and Lady Buc Softball Home Games

Baseball:

Saturday, April 21, Snead State, 1 p.m.
Saturday, April 28, Northwest Shoals, 1 p.m.
Sunday, April 29, Central Alabama, 2 p.m.

Softball:

Thursday, April 19, Gadsden State, 1 p.m.
Friday, April 20, Meridian, 2 p.m.
Tuesday, April 24, Jeff State, 1 p.m.
Thursday, April 26, Northwest Shoals, 1 p.m.

Golf team limps into regionals

By Tom Canterbury

The Shelton State golf team turned in their worst performance of the year April 8-10 at the Beville State Collegiate tournament in Jasper. The Bucs finished 8 out of 15 teams, 53 shots behind the winning team, Brevard Community College.

"We played poorly," fiery head coach Matt Terry said. "We played as smart as we possibly could have, but we couldn't make

a putt. This problem has been plaguing us the last two tournaments. Conditions were great, but we just didn't play good."

One positive that the team can take away from this tournament is the fact that they solidified the five players who will compete at Regionals April 30-May 2 in Arab. Those five are Pope Spruiell, Will Taylor, Jason Davidson, Calle Andrade and Thad Halcombe.

"That's four freshman and one sophomore," Terry said. "It may be part of our problem that

we are young."

Despite their recent struggles, Terry remains optimistic going into regional competition.

"The guys have put a lot of pressure on themselves and I've put a lot of pressure on them," he said. "With our talent level, we should be able to come together and make a good showing at regionals."

"They're not giving up and neither am I. We just have to figure out what to do, and make some putts."

Bias to decide

By Tom Canterbury

Will he be a Rebel, Bulldog or stay home and be part of the Crimson Tide? AJCCC player of the year Rodney Bias will announce his decision on where he will attend and play basketball next year at a press conference Friday morning, April 20. And he's not letting the cat out of the bag early.

"He won't even tell me," athletics coordinator Susan Mohun said. "And he tells me everything."

The list has been nar-

rowed down to three Southeastern Conference schools and it's all up to Bias now.

"We have the letters of intent from the University of Georgia, the University of Mississippi and the University of Alabama," Mohun said. "All that's left now is for Pokey to sign one of them."

Bias would certainly be a welcome addition to any team. He is listed at 6' 10" and 225 lbs. and this past season he led the nation in juco rebounding.

Scholar's Bowl finishes second at national tourney

By Tom Canterbury

The Shelton State Scholar's Bowl team finished second out of 21 teams at the Berry College National Scholar's Bowl tournament in Rome, Ga. April 13 and 14. Shelton finished with a 18-2 record over the two day tournament. The tournament was won by Valencia College.

"I'm very proud of how the team played," coach Diane Layton said. "We played smart and didn't hurt ourselves."

The team is gearing up for the Ala-

bama state tournament which will be held in Montevallo on April 20. Shelton won both qualifiers, but that does not guarantee a victory at state.

"I've seen teams win both qualifiers and not win state before," Layton said. "But we're playing very well right now, and if we don't fall apart we should have a good shot at it."

Team members include Jared Lane (captain), Paul Pedram, Tesh Diggins, John T. Hubbard, John Hays and John Dickey. Chop Barnett and Tom Canterbury are assistants to Coach Layton.

Cheerleaders hold tryouts

By Tom Canterbury

Friday, April 20 through Sunday, April 22, over twenty women and, for the first time ever, men will attend Shelton State cheerleading tryouts.

"There will be clinics Friday night and all day Saturday where the men and women will be learning routines," cheerleading advisor Tracy Branch said. "The actual tryouts are Sunday afternoon at 2."

The team will consist of 14 members who must meet certain requirements. Three sophomores will be returning, but they must still tryout. They are Amy Shaw, Tara Leonard and Jen Hood.

The current sophomore cheerleaders will be teaching the clinic.

"During the tryouts, they must show their knowledge of the new cheers, dances and building techniques," Branch said. "I will have judges here from the Universal Cheerleading Association as well."

Just making the team is the first step in a long practice schedule for new team members.

"We begin practice in July and then go to camp at the end of July," Branch said.

After just a few anxious hours, the members of the 2001-02 Shelton State cheerleading squad will know if they made it.

Summer Jobs cont'd from pg. 3

work around your school dates. Search the internet for summer jobs, and sites like summerjobs.com and coolworks.com will give you ample information on resorts and other jobs such as cruise ships. These jobs are out there and they are looking for people just like you. There is also a large turnover rate in these parks. Many students come for a few weeks and move on. Let's face it; students don't always have the cleanest work record. However, this makes it very easy to get a job in mid-season.

One of my friends from Tuscaloosa came to visit and decided to stay after seeing how much fun we were having. "It was unbelievable how the door to my sweetest summer was opened so easily," said John Arsenault. He simply showed up and asked for a job; so even without signing a contract, it is very possible to get hired.

If the thought of spending another summer in your hometown bores you, get a job in Alaska or the Rocky Mountains. You won't regret it.

On-line applications and links to specific national parks can be found on the websites mentioned above.

Four students awarded Montevallo scholarships

For students were awarded Jr. College President's Scholarships to Montevallo.

Mary Kathryn Perkins was awarded a \$2,600 per year for a Jr. College President's Scholarship and a \$2,000 per year Music Scholarship.

Lillian Fondren was also awarded a \$2,600 per year Jr. College President's Scholarship.

Montevallo is currently working with their Chemistry Dept. to get additional money.

Lauren Moore was also awarded a \$2,600 per year Jr. College President's Scholarship. Moore is also seeking additional scholarship money from women's soccer.

Also Mary Cain was awarded \$2,600 per year Jr. College President's Scholarship.

Nursing Board granted full approval

At the Board of Nursing meeting March 21-23 the panel reviewed the five-year survey report of the Shelton State Community College associate degree nursing program.

Gladys Hill provided additional input to the Board regarding the program. The executive officer said in a letter to President, Dr. Rick Rogers, "I am pleased

to inform you that the Board granted the program continued full approval, with no recommendations." The next routine survey will be conducted in 2006.

The instructors involved in the ABN program are Jackie Williams, Joyce Robinson, Sandra Warren, and Lois Griffin.

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Students honored for excellence

Throughout the week of April 30-May 3, at Shelton State honor students will be honored for their excellence.

On Monday, April 30, there will be a program/reception for honored students at 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., at the Fredd Campus Cafetorium.

Tuesday, May 1, Terrific Tuesday Honors Recital will be held in the Alabama Power Recital Hall at 1 p.m. on the Martin Campus, at 6 p.m.

There will be a PTK dinner, at 7:30 p.m. The music department spring concert will be held in the Bean-Brown Theater (featuring the Shelton State Singers, under the direction of Glinda Blackshear,

the Shelton State Jazz Band under the direction of Dr. Alan Blackshear) on the Martin Campus.

Wednesday, May 2, Honoring Student Leadership Program will be held in the Ryan deGraffenried Lecture Hall at 12:15 p.m. on the Martin Campus. Also, a Celebrating Excellence Reception/Lunch will be for the students honored during the leadership program.

Thursday, May 3, the Honors Night reception will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Foyer of the Umphrey Center. Also at 7 p.m. the Honors Night program will be held in the Umphrey Center.

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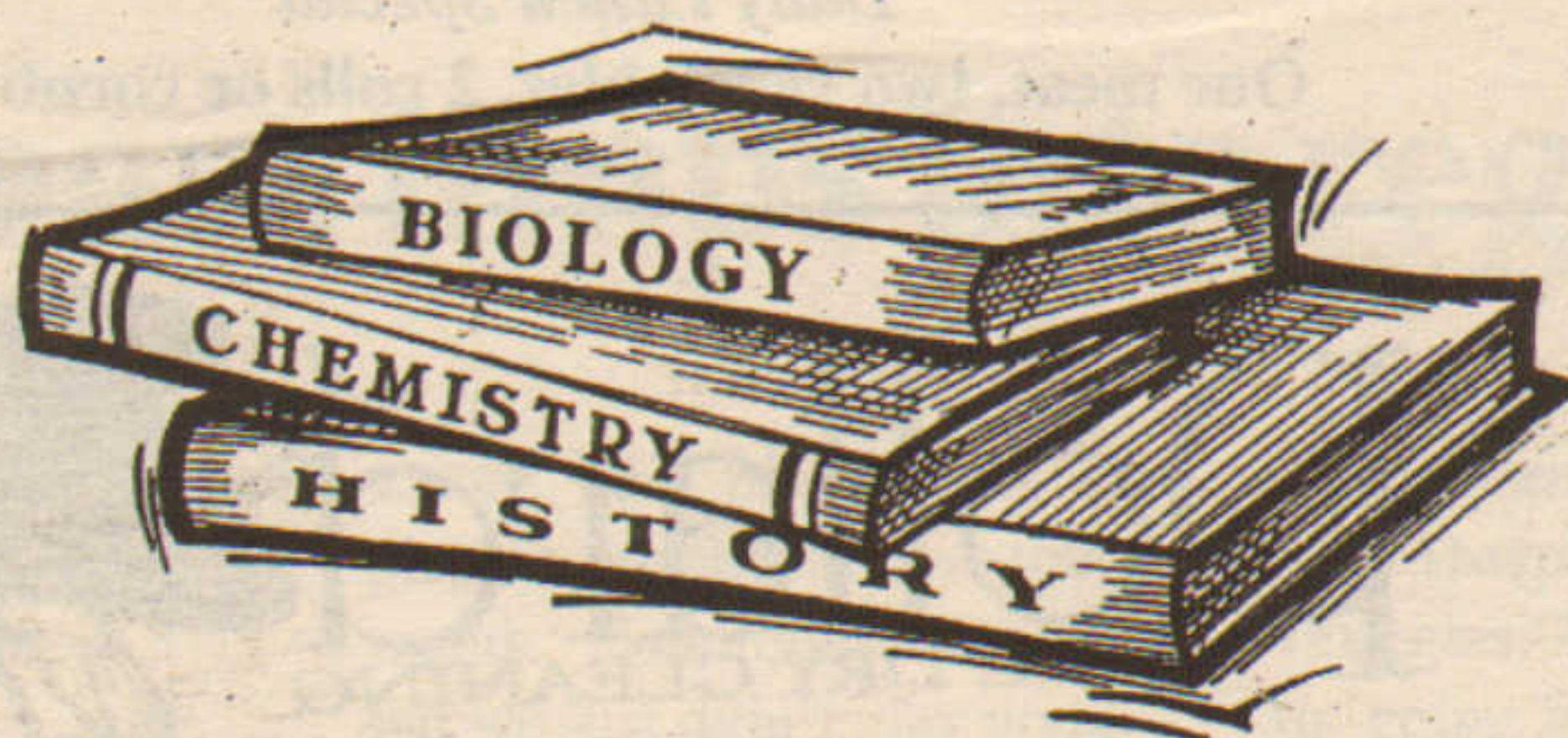
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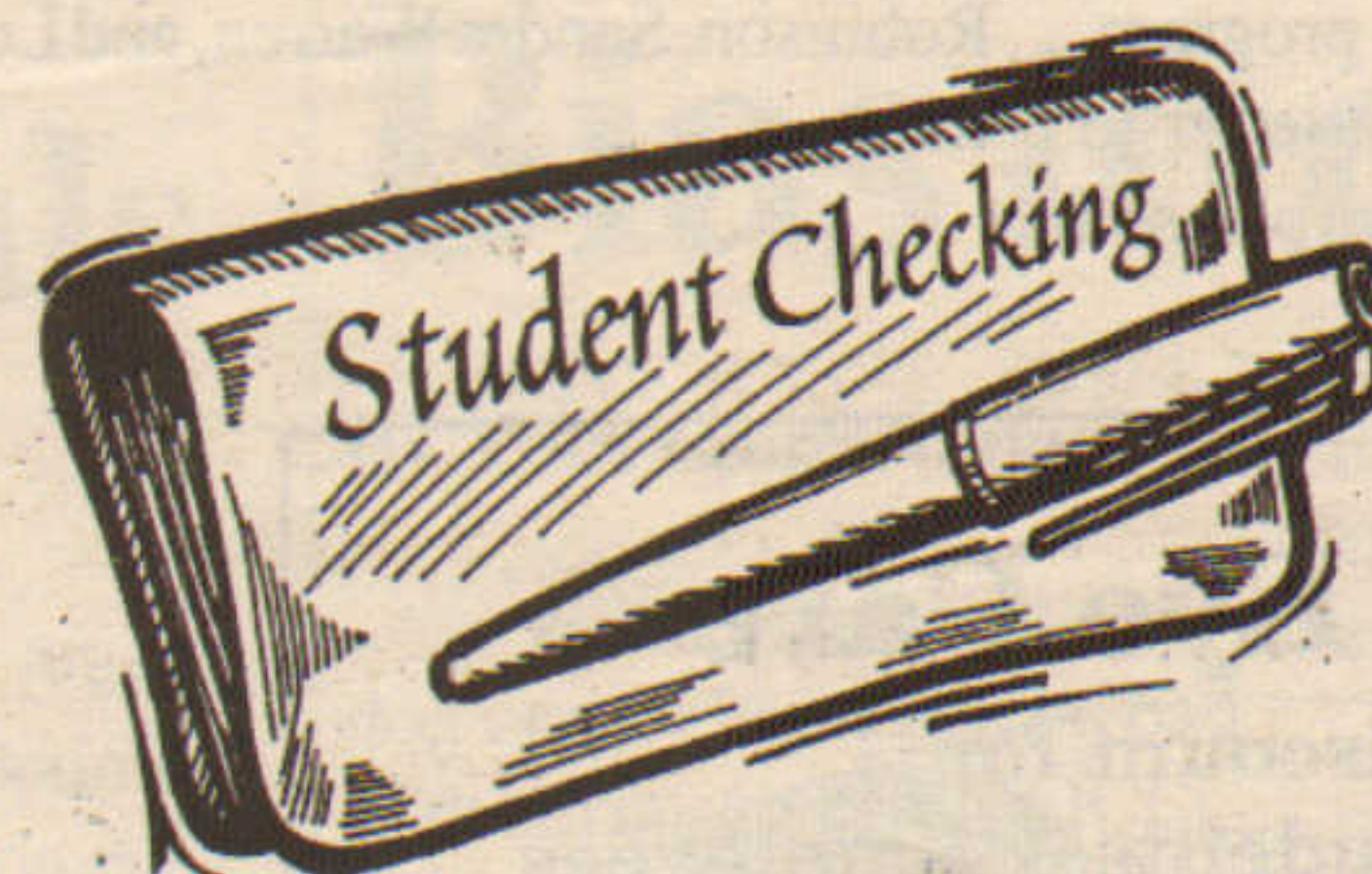
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The Ultimate Insider's Guide to Buying a Used Car

Freshman Jamie Parker is in the car business with her father. Readers can check out her action at Jimmy's Used Cars at 2575 15th St. in Hueytown.

By Jamie Parker

Buying a car can be a very risky thing. A car is the second most expensive and important purchase you will ever make, next to your home. So you want to be sure you get exactly what you want.

The first thing buyers need to get is a copy of a used car guide such as the Kelley Blue Book, or NADA (Kelley is available on the Web). These handy little books can be of great help in getting the right price for

the car you may want to buy. Why pay someone \$3,500 for a car that is only worth \$2,000? The books shows how the value increases as all those neat little extras are added, such as: air conditioning, power steering, power windows, stereo systems, mag wheels and tinted windows.

Know the reputation of the used car dealer. You can do this by asking around, or calling your Better Business Bureau. They can be of great help in letting you know if any complaints have been filed against your dealer.

If you are buying from an individual, ask questions such as: When was the last tune-up, last oil or transmission fluid change. Ask for papers to back up the claim. Get his insurance company's name and check to see if the car has been involved in any wrecks that could possibly lead to mechanical problems in the future. And by all means, whether a used car dealer, or individual, **KICK THE TIRES!** Always kick the tires. The car could plumate to the ground and you would never have known if you hadn't kicked the tires.

Be wise and have a very trusted mechanic look it over for you if you don't know where the dip stick is located. This is a must do. Have the car put on a rack and checked from hub cap to hub cap. If it needs some fixing up, be sure to ask what the price will be. It may cost more than the car!

Sure we all want new cars, but did your uncle die last week, or something? If not, stick to a price you can afford. Don't get bullied into one. Don't go starry eyed over that little red convertible when that Datsun will get you there just as well. Think budget! You might want to eat next week.

Don't go looking for a used car while dressed as a movie star. The dealer will see nothing but dollar signs as you walk through. Go casual. Blue jeans, t-shirt and tennis shoes will do fine. Make sure they are clean, but a little wrinkle here and there won't hurt. The dealer needs to know without asking, what he thinks you might be able to afford. That way he won't waste his time or yours trying to sell you a Cadillac when your budget screams Geo.

Never pay sticker price and never let the dealer do your financing. Wheel and deal is the name of the game. He can be talked down. Don't be shy, be stubborn. You can rest assured he will be, but be more stubborn. Somewhere between all that stubbornness there is a happy medium for the both of you. He expects it and so should you.

Go to your local bank for a loan; the interest rates will be much lower. Some people even find their credit cards offer a better rate than the banks. Check around and get your best rate. And be sure to pay your payments on time. You might need another car in a few years down the road, and people will remember whether you are a bum or not.

I hope this has been of some small help to all of you in buying a used car.

"Buying someone else's troubles" isn't always the way used car buying turns out. It could be the best thing that ever happened to you, if you use good car sense.

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for more information about the application process contact Dawn Ciccarello in the MUW Admissions Office toll-free at

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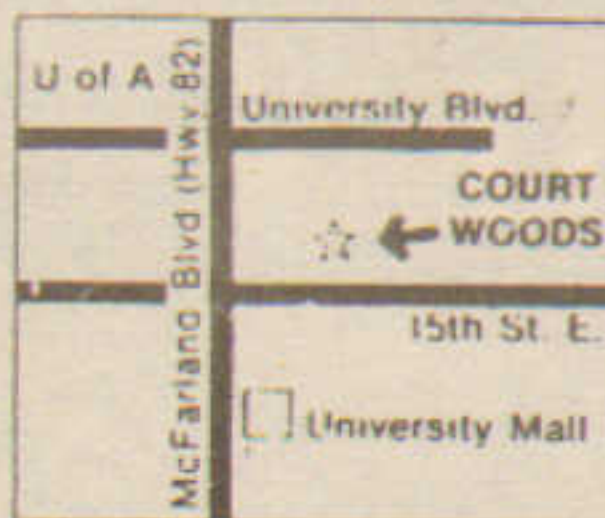
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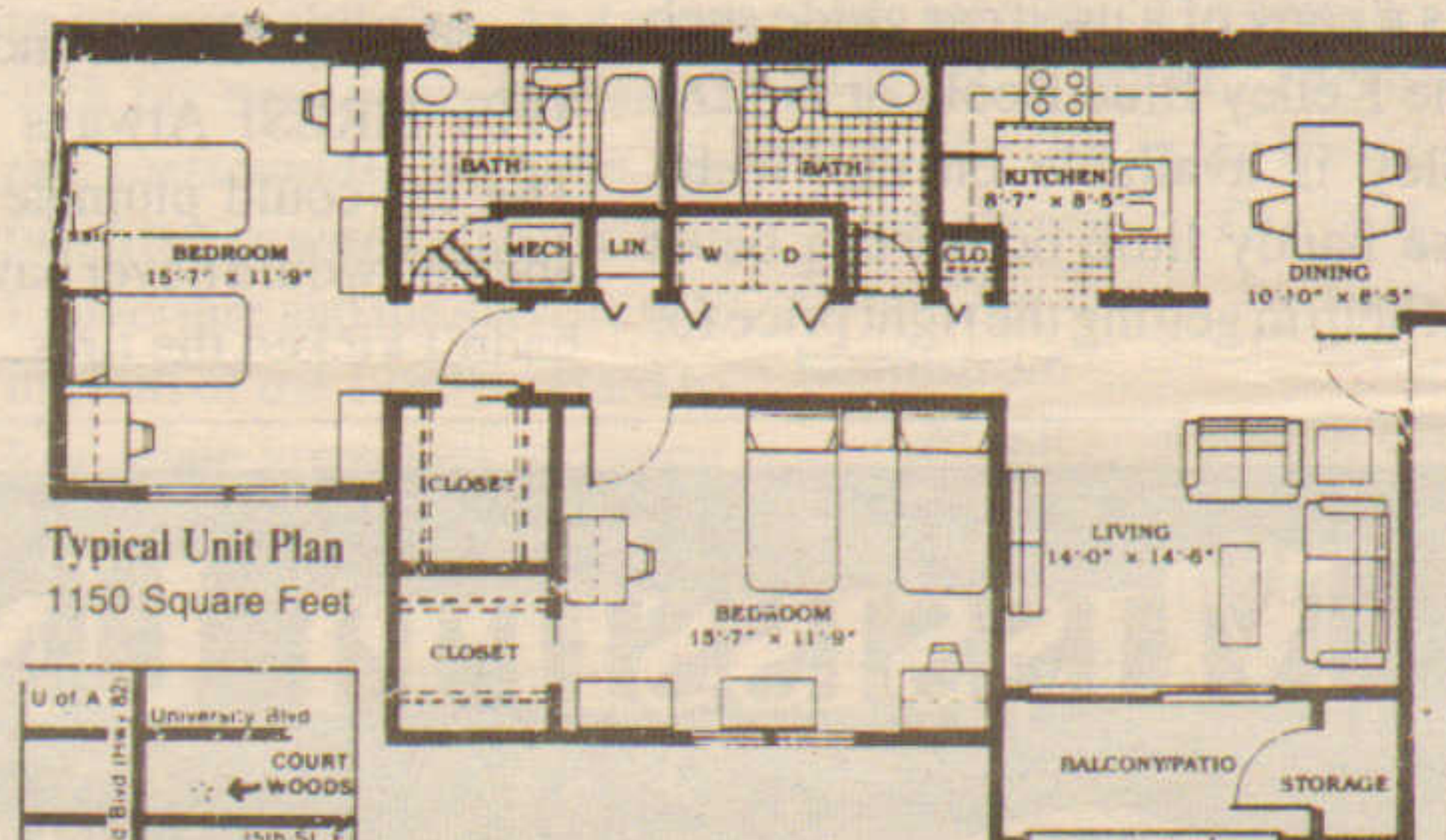


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